

MASON'S
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MANGO CHUTNEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE
SAUCE,
MUSTARD SAUCE,
TOMATO CATSUP.

Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Registered as a Newspaper at the General Post Office in the United Kingdom.

ALAN ROSS & Co.
Machinery Department
4, Des Voeux Rd. Cent.
Phone 27.

No. 18,674. 號四十七百六千八萬一第 日六十月二年午戊 HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 28th, 1918. 四拜禮 號八十二月三年七國民華中 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

INTIMATIONS

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY
PORTLAND CEMENT.
In Casks 375 lbs. net.
In Bags 350 lbs. net.
SHEWAN TOMES & Co.
General Managers 142

OTARD'S

BRANDY.

Shipped by

OTARD, DUPUY & CO.

COGNAC.

SOLE AGENTS.

CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.

15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Telephone No. 78

NEW CARTRIDGES.

JUST ARRIVED.

FIRST-CLASS, DAMP PROOF, AMERICAN SPORTING CARTRIDGES.
12, 16, and 20 Bore, loaded with all sizes of Chilled Shot.

These Cartridges, made of the finest damp proof material, steel lined inside with brass casing 1 1/2 deep on the outside, are especially made to withstand the effects of damp climates and are second to none for reliability in the field.

We have also received a consignment of R.A. Air Rifles.

INFORMATION INVITED.

WM. SCHMIDT & Co.

1168

A LING & CO.

19, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

FURNITURE AND PHOTO GOODS STORE.

Photographic Goods of Every Description in Stock.

Developing, Printing and Enlarging.

Canton Marbles in Various Shades.

TELEPHONE 1918

1335

PEAK TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME-TABLE

WEEK DAYS.	
7.00 a.m.	to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes
8.00 "	to 10.00 " " " "
10.00 "	to 11.00 " " " "
11.20 "	to 12.45 p.m. " " "
12.45 p.m.	to 1.15 " " " "
1.15 "	to 1.45 " " " "
1.45 "	to 2.15 " " " "
2.15 "	to 3.00 " " " "
3.00 "	to 5.00 " " " "
NIGHT CLAS.	
8.50 p.m.	and 9.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
Every Half-Hour.	
11.00 p.m.	to 11.45 p.m. Every Quarter-Hour
SUNDAYS.	
7.30 a.m.	to 10.30 a.m. Every 15 minutes
10.30 "	to 11.00 a.m. " " "
11.30 "	to 12.00 noon " " "
12.00 noon	to 1.00 p.m. " " "
1.00 p.m.	to 3.00 " " " "
3.00 "	to 5.00 " " " "
5.00 "	to 6.30 " " " "
6.30 "	to 8.30 " " " "
NIGHTS CLAS. as on Week Days.	
SATURDAYS.	
Extra Car at 12 Midnight.	

SPECIAL CARS by arrangement at the Company's Office, Alexandra Buildings, Des Voeux Road, and punch tickets available for all cars not already full running at the time stated in the Company's time-tables, but not for special cars, can be obtained on application at the Company's Office. No Season tickets will be issued until payment therefor has been made in Bank Notes, or by Cheque or Comptometer Order representing Bank Notes.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,

General Managers.

1428

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

TIME-TABLE.

On and after WEDNESDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 1917, until further Notice.

DOWN TRAINS.

Station	No. 6 Through Express a.m.	No. 7 Local a.m.	No. 8 Through Slow a.m.	No. 11 Local a.m.	No. 11 Through Express p.m.	No. 17 Local p.m.	No. 19 Local p.m.	No. 21 Local p.m.
CANTON (Tao Sha Tau)	dep. 7.25	dep. 7.55	dep. 11.15	dep. 11.45	dep. 5.20	dep. 5.50	dep. 6.20	dep. 6.50
Shui Shan	dep. 7.40	dep. 8.10	dep. 11.30	dep. 12.00	dep. 5.35	dep. 6.05	dep. 6.35	dep. 7.05
Shing Shui	dep. 7.55	dep. 8.25	dep. 11.45	dep. 12.15	dep. 5.50	dep. 6.20	dep. 6.50	dep. 7.20
Shing Shui	dep. 8.10	dep. 8.40	dep. 12.00	dep. 12.30	dep. 6.05	dep. 6.35	dep. 7.05	dep. 7.35
Shing Shui	dep. 8.25	dep. 8.55	dep. 12.15	dep. 12.45	dep. 6.20	dep. 6.50	dep. 7.20	dep. 7.50
Shing Shui	dep. 8.40	dep. 9.10	dep. 12.30	dep. 13.00	dep. 6.35	dep. 7.05	dep. 7.35	dep. 8.05
Shing Shui	dep. 8.55	dep. 9.25	dep. 12.45	dep. 13.15	dep. 6.50	dep. 7.20	dep. 7.50	dep. 8.20
Shing Shui	dep. 9.10	dep. 9.40	dep. 13.00	dep. 13.30	dep. 7.05	dep. 7.35	dep. 8.05	dep. 8.35
Shing Shui	dep. 9.25	dep. 9.55	dep. 13.15	dep. 13.45	dep. 7.20	dep. 7.50	dep. 8.20	dep. 8.50
Shing Shui	dep. 9.40	dep. 10.10	dep. 13.30	dep. 14.00	dep. 7.35	dep. 8.05	dep. 8.35	dep. 9.05
Shing Shui	dep. 9.55	dep. 10.25	dep. 13.45	dep. 14.15	dep. 7.50	dep. 8.20	dep. 8.50	dep. 9.20
Shing Shui	dep. 10.10	dep. 10.40	dep. 14.00	dep. 14.30	dep. 8.05	dep. 8.35	dep. 9.05	dep. 9.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 10.40	dep. 11.10	dep. 14.30	dep. 15.00	dep. 8.35	dep. 9.05	dep. 9.35	dep. 10.05
Shing Shui	dep. 10.55	dep. 11.25	dep. 14.45	dep. 15.15	dep. 8.50	dep. 9.20	dep. 9.50	dep. 10.20
Shing Shui	dep. 11.10	dep. 11.40	dep. 15.00	dep. 15.30	dep. 9.05	dep. 9.35	dep. 10.05	dep. 10.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 11.40	dep. 12.10	dep. 15.30	dep. 16.00	dep. 9.35	dep. 10.05	dep. 10.35	dep. 11.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 14.40	dep. 15.10	dep. 18.30	dep. 19.00	dep. 12.35	dep. 13.05	dep. 13.35	dep. 14.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 16.40	dep. 17.10	dep. 20.30	dep. 21.00	dep. 14.35	dep. 15.05	dep. 15.35	dep. 16.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 17.40	dep. 18.10	dep. 21.30	dep. 22.00	dep. 15.35	dep. 16.05	dep. 16.35	dep. 17.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 18.10	dep. 18.40	dep. 22.00	dep. 22.30	dep. 16.05	dep. 16.35	dep. 17.05	dep. 17.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 18.40	dep. 19.10	dep. 22.30	dep. 23.00	dep. 16.35	dep. 17.05	dep. 17.35	dep. 18.05
Shing Shui	dep. 18.55	dep. 19.25	dep. 22.45	dep. 23.15	dep. 16.50	dep. 17.20	dep. 17.50	dep. 18.20
Shing Shui	dep. 19.10	dep. 19.40	dep. 23.00	dep. 23.30	dep. 17.05	dep. 17.35	dep. 18.05	dep. 18.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 19.40	dep. 20.10	dep. 23.30	dep. 24.00	dep. 17.35	dep. 18.05	dep. 18.35	dep. 19.05
Shing Shui	dep. 19.55	dep. 20.25	dep. 23.45	dep. 24.15	dep. 17.50	dep. 18.20	dep. 18.50	dep. 19.20
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Shing Shui	dep. 20.40	dep. 21.10	dep. 24.30	dep. 25.00	dep. 18.35	dep. 19.05	dep. 19.35	dep. 20.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 21.10	dep. 21.40	dep. 25.00	dep. 25.30	dep. 19.05	dep. 19.35	dep. 20.05	dep. 20.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 21.40	dep. 22.10	dep. 25.30	dep. 26.00	dep. 19.35	dep. 20.05	dep. 20.35	dep. 21.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 22.10	dep. 22.40	dep. 26.00	dep. 26.30	dep. 20.05	dep. 20.35	dep. 21.05	dep. 21.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 23.40	dep. 24.10	dep. 27.30	dep. 28.00	dep. 21.35	dep. 22.05	dep. 22.35	dep. 23.05
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Shing Shui	dep. 24.10	dep. 24.40	dep. 28.00	dep. 28.30	dep. 22.05	dep. 22.35	dep. 23.05	dep. 23.35
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Shing Shui	dep. 26.25	dep. 26.55	dep. 30.15	dep. 30.45	dep. 24.20	dep. 24.50	dep. 25.20	dep. 25.50

INTIMATIONS

ALLISON PLANOS

AN INSPIRATION TO THE ARTIST.

MUSICAL STUDENT AND AMATEUR.

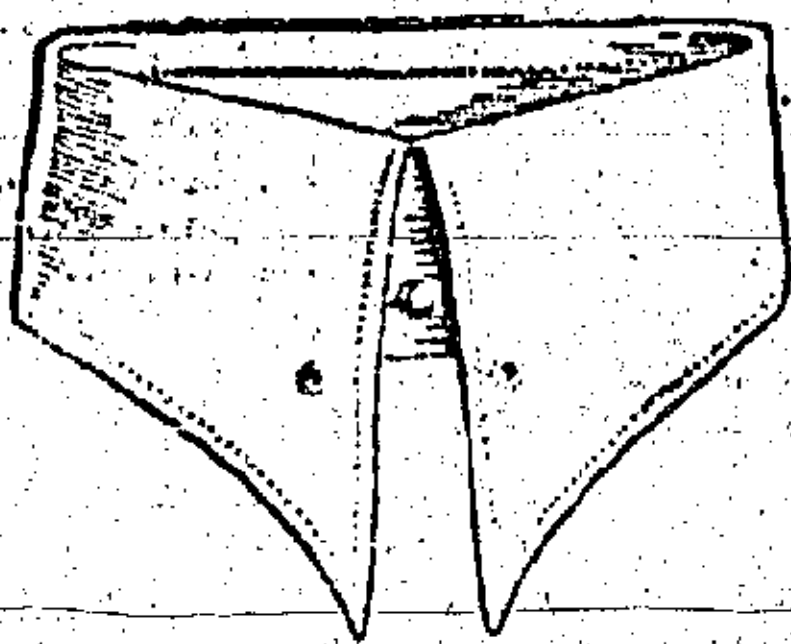
15% DISCOUNT ALLOWED FOR CASH.

EASY TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED.

MOUTRIE'S

SOLE AGENTS.

[28-4]



The Collar of To-day
is the Soft Collar, and discerning men are selecting
SUMMIT SOFT COLLARS—the collars which combine
comfort and economy with the Summit distinctive style
and quality. A popular style is

Summit SHAPE 66
MACKINTOSH

A CO., LTD.,
Men's Wear Specialists,
16, DES VŒUX ROAD. Telephone 29.

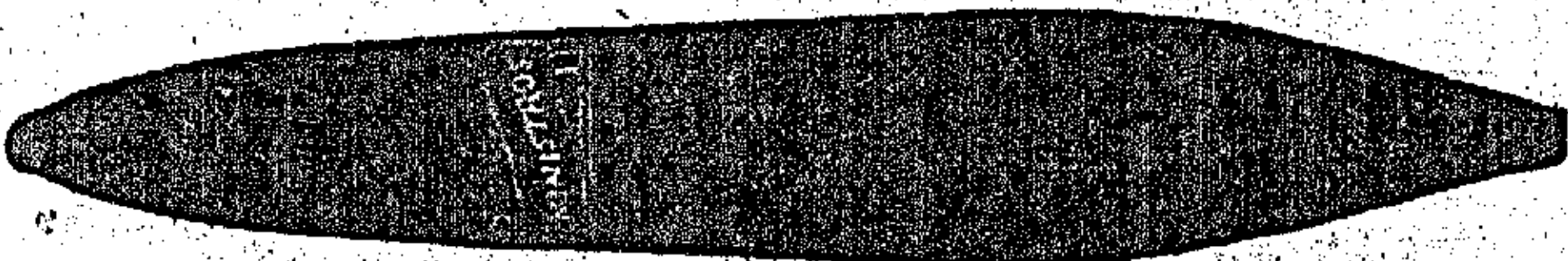
[183]

LA MINERVA

CIGAR FACTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

MINISTROS CIGARS.
in boxes of 25.



The great care exercised in the choice of each single leaf makes these Cigars
beyond all doubt the most perfect ever produced.

\$1 per box duty paid.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,

AGENTS IN HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA.

[1361]

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO

U.S. MAIL LINE.

OPERATING THE NEW FIRST-CLASS STEAMERS

"EQUADOR," "VENEZUELA" AND "COLOMBIA,"

14,000 tons each.

HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO,

VIA SHANGHAI, KORE, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU.

THE SUNSHINE BELT.

THE MOST COMFORTABLE ROUTE TO AMERICA AND EUROPE.

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG AT Noon.

S.S. "VENEZUELA" ... Apr. 24th.
S.S. "EQUADOR" ... May 1st.
S.S. "COLOMBIA" ... June 1st.

These Steamers have the most modern equipment, including Overhead Electric
Fans and Electric Lighting. ALL LOWER BERTHS and large comfortable staterooms
(all single and two berths only).

The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our first consideration.

Special care is given to the Cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be
improved.Tickets are interchangeable with the TOTO KIKU KAIWA and the CANADIAN
PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES, LTD.For further information, rates, literature, schedules, etc., apply to
Telephone 141. COMPANY'S OFFICE in Alexander Buildings, Chater Road.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.

THE ALLIED CONFERENCE AND ITS AIMS.

(FROM "THE TIMES" SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT.)

The announcement that the British and French steamship lines in the North Atlantic trade are forming a Conference is a sign that the companies mean to be prepared for commerce after the war. The Conference is evidently a revival of the International Conference which bulked so largely in shipping before the war. That Conference dealt with the saloon passenger fares, provided for the pooling of the steamer rates, and gave a means for discussing various matters connected with the trade. Its formation followed violent rate wars, and at times the harmony of the proceedings was interrupted by the demand for rearrangement of the conditions—namely, when the carrier ballin put forward demands on behalf of the Hamburg-America which were held to be quite unwarranted. These demands followed the building of the *Imperator* and the *Vaterland*, and the expressed desire of Ballin to become "dictator" of the world's shipping.

At present there is no passenger traffic and it was understood before the war, but it has been thought that these lines which are able to keep in touch and will be working together in future should establish the foundations of a conference. Thus, as the result of conversations in Paris a secretary—Mr. Joseph Fisher, of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique—has been appointed, whose work during the war will be entirely preparatory. For the present, at any rate, his office will be in Paris, and although the final situation of the headquarters of the conference has not yet been determined it seems by no means improbable that the headquarters will be in Paris.

Included in the new conference is, of course, the American Line, which forms part of the International Mercantile Marine Company. No doubt the Italian lines will support the scheme. They were members before the war of an Italian and Oriental conference, in which the Greek lines participated, but the work of this body during the war has been suspended. It is understood that the attitude of the Dutch and Scandinavian Lines towards the conference has not yet been considered. Both the Holland-America and the Danish Forenede were members of the old conference.

The International Conference now being formed is distinct from the purely British Conference which has been kept alive throughout the war. It will have to deal with conditions entirely different from any that have hitherto existed.

BRILLIANT EXPLOIT OF THE SHROPSHIRE.

From time to time we have referred to the bravery and tenacity of the Shropshires in the War (says the *Shropshire Chronicle*). Only a few weeks ago we commented on the gallantry shown when the Territorials were unexpectedly brought into action. Another glorious stand has been made somewhere on the Western Front by the same Battalion. The details to hand from various sources show that the Shropshires had to temporarily evacuate a trench, and their flank was in the air, but that the position was gallantly retaken about an hour later. Lieut. Gordon Morley, after leading a successful raid, in which he greatly distinguished himself by his fearless bravery, was shot down by a sniper just as he had achieved his objective. His exploit was a brilliant one, and we hear that he is to be recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Other officers who laid down their lives were Captain Atherton, only son of W. W. Atherton, of Great Haywood, and Lieut. Norman Smith, of Bridgnorth, the late Adjutant of the 1st Batt. Shropshire Volunteers, both of whom were well-known, and held in high regard in wide circles throughout the country. Major W. G. Litt was seriously but not dangerously wounded, and the following officers were also wounded—Capt. Shearer and Lieut. Hughes, and Lieuts. Phillips, Ekham, Boyce, and Wilson, none of them very seriously, we are glad to hear. Reports speak very highly of the cool and efficient work of Major Hawkins, Captain Shearer and Captain Charles Litt in the very thick of the heavy fighting. We have not yet heard of the names of the casualties amongst the men, but it is told that the number killed is not very heavy, considering the circumstances. One of those who won the Military Medal at Passchendaele was killed; Lance-Corpl. Haddock and Private O. Harper were badly wounded; whilst Corpl. Brittle and Pte. Joyce are missing. We also hear that among the wounded are Private Green, Walker, Ruff, and Madden, of Newport. We in Shropshire are proud of the way in which the Territorials have maintained unsullied the traditions of the old 53rd Regiment.

LIEUTENANT GORDON MORLEY.

Lieutenant Gordon Morley was educated at Wren Grammar School, where he was head boy and edited the School Magazine. In the early days of the war he went with his regiment to the East and eventually saw active service on the Western Front. He joined in the terrible hand to hand fighting which occurred a few days ago when the Germans made a desperate attack to take a trench held by the Shropshires. The Germans had captured a portion of the trench and Lieutenant Gordon Morley, having in mind the tradition that the Shropshires had never yet lost a position to the enemy, volunteered to lead a bombing party against them, and with the help of his gallant men, he succeeded in driving them out and recapturing the trench. It is not known with certainty how he came by his end, but it is reported that he was killed by a sniper at the end of the fight.

THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY.

Mr. Regov, a knife-grinder by trade, has been appointed Minister of Communications in the Bolsheviki Ministry.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE SPORTS.

PRIZES DISTRIBUTED BY LADY HO TUNG.

The postponed prize-giving in connection with the Queen's College Sports took place yesterday afternoon in the College Hall, when Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung attended.

The whole school was assembled and a number of old pupils and masters were present. The headmaster, Mr. T. K. Denly, thanked Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung for their support and said that it was an immense disappointment to those in charge that the sports had so unexpectedly to be cut short on account of the weather. Everything was going on so smoothly and well until the rain came. He added that if Sir Robert had been able to see some of the contests it would have enabled him to realise a few of the many charges that had taken place since he, himself, was in the school. It was good for those who were getting on in years to look on youth at play, and it brought back reminiscences of the tireless days when they themselves rejoiced in the hearty pleasures of outdoor exercise. The headmaster remarked that he would like to see still more boys as competitors and fewer as onlookers. An overy public school at home, he reminded his hearers, all boys, unless specially exempted, regularly shared in organised games and sports. In Hongkong they had not coached that stage, but he was convinced that ultimately they would do so. When he first came to Hongkong—many years ago—it was an exaggeration to say that exercise in an active form among the boys, beyond kite-flying and kicking the shuttlecock, was practically unknown. In the old Central School there was not a single square inch of ground for recreation; one passed straight from crowded classrooms into narrow corridors and passages and thence into the public street. The events so keenly and cleanly contested nine days ago at Causeway Bay showed that since then much had been done in a right direction. He told the boys to remember that games made them fitter for class work, and fitter, later, for the more serious work of life. A boy who played an honest straight-forward game would be upright in his dealings with the world; he became a desirable citizen, and that was the great object of training in school. He thanked the masters who were responsible for the organisation of the sports and made special mention of the indefatigable honorary secretary, Mr. W. Kay. He also thanked the many subscribers to the prize fund, mainly old boys, and referred to the artistic addition to the permanent trophies—a beautiful silver cup for the old boys' race—which, along with a small memento for this year's winner, was given by Dr. Lindsay-Woods to foster athletic sports in the Colony.

Lady Ho Tung then distributed the prizes to the successful competitors.

The Senior Championship Cup presented by Sir Robert Ho Tung was won by Ko Kin Fan, and the Junior Championship Cup presented by old Q.C. The graduates at the University was won by Tsai Tse Yui.

Dr. Lindsay-Woods' Cup was won by A. Hamid-Johnstone.

After the distribution a beautiful bouquet of roses in a silver holder was presented to Lady Ho Tung by one of the smallest boys in the school, and the School Champion called for cheers and a "Tiger."

GERMAN STEAMSHIP OFFICIALS IMPRISONED.

FOUND GUILTY OF FRAUD.

The conviction of Karl Bucz, Resident Director of the Hamburg-American Line and former German Consul General at the port of New York; George Kotter, Adolph Hachmeister and Joseph Poppens, Hamburg-American officials, was affirmed on January 11th by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

They were tried and found guilty in 1915 of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Government by filing false manifests for vessels carrying supplies from New York and other ports to German raiding vessels in the North and South Atlantic.

Bucz, Kotter and Hachmeister were sentenced to serve eighteen months each, and Poppens one year and a day in the Atlanta Penitentiary. The Hamburg-American Line was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1. All were released in \$5,000 bail each pending decision of their appeal. Hachmeister died about a year ago.

The false manifests were used to conceal the destinations of outgoing vessels chartered by the Hamburg-American Line, which had an agreement with the German Government in 1914 to supply German warships at sea with coal and provisions.

Among the neutral ships chartered were the *Berwind*, *Lorenz*, and *Gladiators*, which were sent out with three Hamburg-American liners.

The opinion, written by Judge Henry W. Rogers, and concurred in by Judges Charles M. Hough and Learned Hand, among other things says:

"The District Court Judge properly took it for granted at the trial that there was nothing inherently wrong in an undertaking to provide coal, provisions and other supplies for German warships on the high seas, as the United States and Germany were not at the time at war with each other. Neither the law of nations nor the laws of the United States prohibited such an undertaking."

"The act complained of consisted in obtaining clearance certificates for certain designated ports by presenting to the Collector of Customs sworn manifests which falsely represented that their cargoes were to be landed at the ports named. The actual intention was not to carry the cargoes to such ports, but to German warships on the high seas. The clearances were obtained by means of false oaths, and those responsible were guilty of corrupt conduct."

SPORT.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

LIMITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

R.G.A., 3; R.E., 0.

The R.G.A. turned out on the Club ground for this match yesterday with what was supposed to be a weak team, their three regular half-backs all suffering from injuries, and being unfit to play. Edgeller, however, who has never found his true form in the forward line, went back to centre half, where he played a magnificent game, and although Pascall was a little too quick for Long on occasions, the half-back line could not be said to be below its usual standard. The sappers, too, had reorganised their team, but with, as events proved, disastrous results. Lucas, who is one of the best backs in the Colony, went into the forward line, White taking his place at back, and Horton going to the vacant half-back position. Of the three, Horton was the only one that showed improved form in his new position, and he played a grand game, but the services of Lucas at back were sadly missed.

For the first few minutes of the game there was only one team in it, the gunners swarming around the Engineers' goal so thickly that it was wonderful how it escaped. Clarke saved well on several occasions from Watson and Green, and once after he had stopped a good drive from Watson, Youngman attempted an overhead kick, which hit the cross-bar, the custodian being in the opposite corner of the goal. After a time the R.E. broke away, and Pascall tried a shot, but his attempt was not a good one. Shortly afterwards the same player had another rather difficult opportunity to score, but again failed, after doing some clever work to get the ball into position. Then Lucas broke through, but shot wide, and Osborne afterwards attempted a drive which would have scored had it been a yard or so to the right. After the gunners had visited the other end again Townsend got a clean breakaway, but finished by snubbing straight at Taylor, who saved. Just before half-time Lucas attempted a shot which went very wide.

After the interval a furious attack by the Artillerymen via their left wing looked dangerous. A pretty centre from Baxter across the goal-mouth was allowed to go begging, and another from the same player was put behind by Youngman. Against Dickenson set the sappers through, but the movement was checked by onside. Then came the first goal. A nice kick up the field by Long, followed by a miss-kick by White, caused Clarke to run out to clear, and the ball going to Green, who promptly punted it into the net.

The sappers then had after this, but without success, and before long the R.G.A. were attacking again. A centre from Youngman passed about two yards in front of goal, being missed by several players of both sides. Shortly afterwards, Saunders, by a good individual effort, notched the second goal for his side. Baxter afterwards during the ward, Youngman, in a dash for goal, left the whole field behind him, but his final effort missed the uprights, and before anything else could happen, the whistle sounded for "time." The gunners thoroughly deserved their win, being the better team throughout. The result will be good news to the Hongkong Defence Corps, who cannot be ousted from the seat of the league now, without a replay with the Royal Engineers' teams: R.G.A.—Taylor; Gretton and Dickenson; Long, Edgeller and Bone; Youngman; Saunders; Watson, Green and Baxter.

R. E. Clarke, Blumfield and White; Charlton, Smith and Horton; Strange, Osborne, Lucas, Townsend and Pascall. Referee, Mr. Wright.

HOCKEY.

H.K. DEFENCE CORPS v. ROYAL NAVY.

The Defence Corps had an easy victory over the Navy at Happy Valley on Tuesday evening, scoring 8 goals to their opponents' 1. The Navy were two men short, and the Defence Corps ones, and in addition, good players were absent from both teams. The Navy, however, were the chief sufferers in this respect, and it was very sporting of them to get out a team at all in the circumstances, especially as it was a league game. The Defence Corps goals were scored by Joseland (3), Morse (2), Cobb (2) and Redmond.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.S.E.

PATROLMEN.

Foot Patrolmen who do not in due course receive their warnings for next period of 3 weeks (April 4th to May 3rd) must apply to their Warning Officers for same.

SEARCH SUPERVISORS.
This Squad will commence duty on Thursday, April 4th. Members who do not receive warnings for duty before that date are made responsible for obtaining same from their respective Warning Officers, i.e., Inspectors Eustace or Wei Wing Sam.

TRUNCHEONS.
Reference to Order, hereon dated March 2nd, all ranks below the rank of Inspector will carry truncheons when on patrol or police duty in uniform. The carrying of truncheons when off duty in uniform is optional.

By Order,
T. F. Hopen,
A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.
March 27th, 1916.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

THEFT OF CLOTHES.

A coolie, who was charged with stealing several articles of clothing from a club in Des Vœux Road, in which he had received shelter for the night, was sentenced to one month's hard labour by Mr. J. R. Wood.

ALLEGED SNATCHING.

A Chinese was charged with snatching a pair of gold ear-rings from a Chinese woman in Des Vœux Road, on Tuesday.

Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case for a week, fixing bail at \$200.

THEFT OF A STOVE.

A Chinese was charged with stealing a cooking stove from No. 9, Des Vœux Road West.

Defendant stated that he went to see a friend. Evidence which was given, however, proved that defendant was seen carrying the stove away.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour.

THEFT FROM KOWLOON DOCKS.

A dockyard labourer was charged with stealing a quantity of brass, valued at \$4, from the Kowloon Docks.

Defendant said he forgot to put the brass back into the locker when he had finished his work.

It was stated that the brass was found concealed in the man's clothing.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced defendant to one month's hard labour and four hours' stocks.

TROUBLE WITH COAL COOLIES.

A Chinese coal coolie was charged with stealing several poles which had been placed outside a house in Cross Street.

Inspector Nim said that coal coolies were causing a great deal of trouble at the present moment, as there was no work for them.

A previous conviction was proved against defendant, who was sentenced to one month's hard labour by Mr. J. R. Wood.

DISHONEST HOUSE-COOLIE.

A Chinese house-coolie pleaded guilty to stealing two ten-cent pieces from 763a, Wanchai Road, the residence of Mr. Alderman, of the electrical department of the Naval Yard, by whom he was employed.

It was stated that Mr. Alderman had lost over \$40, and had placed marked ten-cent pieces in the drawer.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant, who is only sixteen years of age, to twenty-one days' hard labour.

ALLEGED BIBBERY.

Two Chinese were charged with attempting to bribe a *lukong*.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner appeared for the defence.

Inspector Brown said that the men commissioned others to export a quantity of opium from the Colony. They had five tins of opium in their possession and when arrested offered the *lukong* fifty cents as a bribe.

Mr. Gardiner said that the opium was Government opium.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case for a week, fixing bail at \$50 each.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE LAST YEAR.

During 1917 the value of British imports, for the first time in our commercial history, exceeded a thousand millions sterling, the total being 21,065,266,407, as compared with 20,485,804,492 in the previous twelve months. In normal times, of course, this great expansion in imports would be significant of conditions of a real prosperity, and it would probably have been accompanied by an equally marked expansion in the total of exports. Although there is no comparison between the two items, it is satisfactory to find that there has, in fact, been some expansion in this latter direction also in the twelve months, British exports having been valued at 20,994,961,232 as compared with 20,065,279,707 in 1916, but of greater interest is a comparison of the position with that of 1914, which gives a closer indication of the effect of the war upon our trade position. This is shown in the following table:

	1914.	1917.	Increase.
Imports	20,485,804,492	21,065,266,407	580,461,915
Exports	20,485,804,492	20,994,961,232	490,843,260

As compared with 1914, it will be seen our imports show an expansion of nearly 2,800,000,000, while the increase in exports has amounted to only about 80 millions sterling. This latter figure also including re-exports of foreign and Colonial produce, and the net result is an adverse balance of 470 millions sterling against one of 170 millions in 1914. To some extent the position has been met by the maturity of bills and the sale of securities, the liquidation of the balance having been postponed by means of the various credits raised abroad in the three years—*Morning Post*.

RAOUCOURSE DISASTER. DETAILS OF THE SHEDS.

The enquiry into the raucecourse disaster was continued at the Magistracy yesterday.

The greater part of the morning was wasted by recalling the partner in the firm of Sze Hop, the matched contractors, who was required to deal with the sheds one by one and state the positions of the staircases, exits, etc., in order that Mr. Wright, the Building Authority, might take notes, and, at a subsequent date, produce a plan showing these details.

Why this object could not have been attained much more satisfactorily by a consultation between Mr. Wright and the contractor at the Public Works Department, and the plan simply put in and proved, was not stated.

CUTTING THE LASHINGS.

Li Sui Pui, aged 16 years, the son of the witness who gave evidence the previous day regarding hearing the lashings of shed No. 12 being cut, corroborated his father's statements. The noises he heard, shortly before 3 o'clock, sounded, he said, as if the lashings were being cut below him. He did not actually see anyone cutting them. It was only one or two minutes after he heard the noise that the shed fell. He told his father that the matcheds were about to collapse and asked him to listen. He did not think that the sounds he heard could have been the sounds of the lashings bursting as the sheds fell, because the sounds came at distinct intervals. If the lashings had been bursting on account of the sheds falling the noise would have been a different one and continuous. He had not, however, heard the sound of bursting lashings in any matcheds before.

By Mr. Bowley: He had seen workmen cutting lashings when matcheds were being taken down.

Li Po Hung, brother of Li Po Lung, was also called upon to give evidence with regard to the cutting of the lashings. He was in shed No. 12 and he saw people run, but he did not know why, for he heard no noise. He himself ran a couple of paces and then the shed fell down. His brother had told him that someone had cut the lashings, but he had no evidence on the point.

By Mr. Bowley: His brother told him about the lashings having been cut either the day following or two days after the race-meeting. It was the first occasion he saw his brother since the collapse.

By the Coroner: On the night of the collapse he had spoken to his brother by telephone and nothing was mentioned then about the lashings.

THE FIRE.

W. J. Morrison, a volunteer fireman, who assisted at the fire on the raucecourse, said an effort was made to throw buckets of water on to the flames, but the heat prevented them from getting close enough. R. M. Austin, foreman of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, said if a hose had been already laid and full of water with the nozzle at the exact place where the fire started something might have been done to put out the flames. Otherwise nothing would be of service. Everything possible was done with the apparatus which they had.

By the Crown Solicitor: He had had experience of fire brigade work in Shanghai and Tientsin.

Det. Sergeant J. Field also gave evidence.

CONTRACTOR RECALLED.

The partner in the firm of Sze Hop, recalled, stated that the plan produced, which he had drawn on February 20th, showed the cross bracings on the back and front of the sheds. He had made the plan in order to keep track of the materials used in the buildings, but he had not made a similar plan of the floors. He had no plan either to show the material used in the partitions.

The Coroner: Your three storey buildings are not as well braced as the two storey sheds?—It is all the same.

But it isn't. No. 10, for instance, is not properly braced at the back?—For three storey matcheds the bracing would be stronger; it would be of poles, not of bamboo.

Are all the bracings of the same thickness of pole?—Yes.

Why is shed 10 braced less than the others?—Because it has four entrances.

Then shed No. 10 is not so strong as the others?—Just the same; the other sheds are supporting it.

Why do you build a row of sheds in which some are weak?—The matcheds in between support them.

Mr. Bowley: I understand you constructed all the doorways and staircases in accordance with the instructions of the Inspector?—Yes.

The same applies to the heights of the floors, and other arrangements?—Yes.

In putting on cross bracings at the back you had to avoid as far as possible the doorways?—Certainly.

With regard to the front you had to avoid the openings in order to let the people see the races?—Yes.

Would it have been possible to put cross bracings in the interior of the sheds without interfering with the people?—No.

The enquiry was adjourned until to-day, when it is expected that the Director of Public Works, the Water Authority, Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. Bird, Mr. Wright and others will give evidence.

COMPANY MEETINGS. HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The forty-ninth ordinary meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., was held yesterday morning at the offices of the Company, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Pedder Street.

The Hon. Mr. David Landale presided, and there were also present:—The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Sir Robert Ho Tung, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. F. Maitland, and Mr. H. P. White (Consulting Committee), Mr. L. N. Lee (Secretary), the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. H. Percy Smith, Mr. A. R. Lowe, Mr. G. Grimble, Mr. D. V. Stevenson, Mr. C. Beswick, Mr. C. A. da Roza, G. K. Haxton, Mr. Ho Lung, and Mr. Lo Cheung Shui (shareholders).

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—The underwriting operations for the period under review have, I am glad to say, again been very successful. The loss ratio for the closed year works out at as low as 36.29 per cent. The expense ratio is very moderate, and a substantial profit, therefore, has to be recorded for 1917. For 1917, also, the underwriting results are, up to date, quite good, and if the second year's experience is up to the average we should again have a good profit to show on the termination of this year.

Losses in the Far Eastern field have, if anything, been more numerous than usual. There have been large outbreaks in European occupied properties in the Philippines, in Kobe, in Hankow, and in Shanghai, and so we must, I think, regard ourselves as fortunate in having no good result to show. The most adverse influence on our figures has been exchange. A year ago my predecessor in the chair made reference to the diminution which had been thus caused in the value of our Gold assets expressed in local currency, and, of course, a corresponding shrinkage occurs in the profits of our gold-using agencies, affecting our working account. Since that date exchange has had a yet larger rise—from 2/4 to 3/4, an increase of 25 per cent. It is remarkable, I think, that in spite of this the premium income of the Company is at a level which was only exceeded in 1915.

Our holding in British, Indian and Colonial Government securities has increased by £23,000, due to further purchases of British and Colonial War Loans. One of the results of this larger acquisition of gold assets has been that the amount held in reserve to the credit of investment and exchange fluctuation account has proved insufficient, and, as a loss actually occurred in 1917, the working account of that year has been debited with a sum sufficient to meet this, and leave a small balance to the credit of this fund. Exchange, since the turn of the year, has risen still further, and the consulting committee regard it as wise, therefore, to pass the further sum of \$68,000 from the profits of working account 1917 to the credit of this account. I regard this continuous writing-off as constituting practically a hidden reserve, for it is quite clear that whenever exchange resorts to the level of pre-war days there will be an automatic return of a very large amount of dollars to the Company.

The Company's holding in Foreign Gold Loans is reduced, for an investment, referred to at our last annual meeting, in the bonds of the Russian Government, has had to be heavily written down since the finances of that unfortunate country became involved in the throes and stress of the disintegrating influence of the gigantic revolution which is shaking the entire structure of that vast nation.

You will, I make no doubt, applaud the action of the management in again contributing \$5,000 to the local fund for the support of War Charities—action which received, I am glad to recall, your heartfelt approval a year ago. After making these provisions and adding \$5,000 to the credit of reinsurance fund, we are able to recommend the payment out of the working account 1917 of the usual dividend of 37 per cent, and I should add that this staff has not been forgotten. The pressure upon them is heavier and the difficulties of management grow greater in times such as these, and it will, I hope, have been in accordance with your wishes that the consulting committee voted a bonus of 15 per cent on their salaries, as was paid last year.

During the course of 1917 an Ordinance was passed affecting fire and marine insurance companies transacting business in the Colony, as was foreshadowed in the Chairman's speech a year ago, and a similar measure has also become law in the Straits Settlements and is contemplated, I understand, also by the Government of the Federated Malay States. The passing of the local Ordinance had our support, and we believe it will be of benefit to the cause of clean and sound insurance business generally.

Gentlemen, the Company has now entered upon its fiftieth year—its jubilee year. Is it too much to hope that when this time next year we cast our eyes back on the progress and activities of this small but vigorous local Company, the feelings of satisfaction with which we may expect to contemplate them may no longer be overshadowed by the world's greatest tragedy, but that we may enter upon our 51st year of existence with the terrors of the war behind us?

The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were ready and could be obtained at the office. The meeting then terminated.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—We regret having to submit such an unfortunate statement of last year's working, but you are doubtless well aware that sugar is subject to wide fluctuations in value, and it is due to a decline of about 50 per cent. in Java raw prices and greatly increased costs of refining that the year shows such an adverse result. The scarcity of tonnage brought about the heavy decline in Java sugar prices during the past 12 to 15 months, as it was impossible to market the crop adequately, and as this affected values in China, we had to write down our refined stocks very considerably. During the past 12 months prices in China have dropped roughly about 12 to 13 per cent. In fact, the loss on our China business has been extremely heavy, as during the period under review we made quite satisfactory profits on our orders for other outlets. Japanese competition has been keener than ever and the output of Japanese refineries has increased during the year. The high rate of silver exchange is of great assistance to them, but their own protected market is their strong point. The position practically resolves itself into this, the Chinese consumer of refined sugar is supplied by the Japanese refineries at the expense of the Japanese consumer, and I wonder how long the Japanese consumer will be content with this state of affairs.

At times the Japanese refineries were even selling refined sugar in China below the cost of raw sugar. The scarcity of tonnage has affected us adversely in every way. We have to pay much higher rates on our raw and refined sugar and also upon all materials used in production, etc. Take coal, for instance, which is one of our most essential items. The additional cost over that of the previous year was about \$80,000, and I am afraid that it will be even worse for the current year. This is another matter where existing circumstances greatly benefit our neighbours in Japan. Since the war commenced, coal-owners in that country have been able to raise the f.o.b. price of coal from about Y.4.90 to Y.13 per ton. There is reported to be plenty of coal in the neighbouring provinces of China, but the Chinese have so far done little or nothing to either develop their Southern coalfields themselves or to allow others to do so. The poor state of the China trade and the other adverse conditions have resulted in the slow movement of stock and consequently a heavy burden of interest.

Fire Insurance, etc.—As regards raw sugar, we have fortunately pursued a hand-to-mouth policy for the past year or so, and our supplies are therefore only moderate and at a price that may reasonably be assumed to be safe. Our policy of systematic repairs and renewals of the refinery plant and equipment is being maintained, and in addition to last year's allocation from profits of \$75,000, we have also spent \$37,496.48, which has been charged to the Working Account of year. These outlays were essential, but are showing satisfactory returns in the improved efficiency of our works. In spite of the unfortunate result of last year's working, the financial position of the Company is sound, as we now have a practically modern and well-equipped property standing in the books at less than the value of the land alone. You are doubtless aware that the values of almost all commodities have greatly enhanced owing to the war, and the inevitable reaction is only to be expected when there is a cessation of hostilities. When it is remembered that Java raw sugar advanced about 100 per cent during 1915, and has declined almost to a similar extent during the past 12/13 months, it is to be hoped that our last year's unfortunate working has embodied all the adverse re-adjustment of values that may be necessary, and that future conditions generally may be more favourable for us.

The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were ready and could be obtained at the office. The meeting then terminated.

I now have pleasure in moving:—That the report and accounts as presented, including the payment of a dividend of 37 per cent, an addition of \$68,034.73 to the investment and exchange fluctuation account; of \$5,000 to the reinsurance fund; and the payment of a bonus to staff of 15 per cent upon their salaries be adopted and passed.

Mr. D. V. STEVENSON seconded this, and it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. D. Landale, the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland, and C. S. Gubbay were reappointed the consulting committee for the ensuing year, on the motion of Mr. G. K. Haxton, seconded by Mr. C. A. da Roza.

Messrs. H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., and A. R. Lowe, F.C.A., were reappointed auditors at a remuneration of \$500, on the motion of Mr. C. W. Beswick, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook.

The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were ready and could be obtained at the office. The meeting then terminated.

HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd., was held yesterday at noon, at the offices of the Company, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Hon. Mr. D. Landale (Chairman), presided, and there were also present:—The Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and the Rev. Pere Robert (Consulting Committee), R. M. Austin (Secretary), Mr. G. K. Haxton (Manager), the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. C. W. Beswick, A. V. Apper, G. Hogg, A. B. Stewart, D. G. M. Bernard, A. C. Davidson, A. J. C. da Silva, and Lo Cheung Shui (shareholders).

The CHAIRMAN said:—The result of the year's working shows a decrease of \$1,492.87 as compared with 1916; the actual net profit for the year being \$87,632.60 as against \$89,325.47. The usual interim dividend of 32 per share was paid in August last, and we now propose paying a final dividend of 39 per share, which, I trust, you will consider satisfactory. We are also in a position to add to our provision for contingencies account to the extent of \$15,000 and carry forward \$14,432.00. Sales of ice show a slight increase over 1916, which, when it is borne in mind that owing to the large increase in cost of coal it was found necessary to increase the price by 1 cent per lb., must be considered satisfactory. The cold storage branch, however, shows a decrease in revenue this year owing to the partial stoppage of the export of meat.

Your Manager reports that all machinery and buildings at the works are in first-class order, and all launches and lighters have received their annual overhaul.

Your General Managers have recently been approached by the Dairy Farm Co. with a view to their acquiring the business and undertaking of this Company, and, as your General Managers and your consulting committee are of the opinion that an amalgamation would be to the advantage of shareholders, has been provisionally accepted. A provisional agreement has been signed. Both offer and acceptance are, however, conditional upon the sanction of general meetings of the shareholders of each Company. The main terms of the agreement are the acquisition of the undertaking and business of this Company in return for the issue to shareholders of eight shares of the Dairy Farm Co. of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid in respect of each share in this Company. It is proposed that our business be taken over from the 1st January last, and that the accounts of the working of the two companies be kept separate until the 31st July next. Provided the profits made by such working justify such a course, an interim dividend equal to the interim dividend of 32 per share which has been paid for the last three years will then be paid in respect of the Dairy Farm shares to be issued to shareholders of this Company. After the 31st July the accounts of both businesses will be combined, and the profits divided among shareholders in the Dairy Farm Company, of which the proposed future name is "The Dairy Farm Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd." It is also a part of the arrangement that your general manager shall receive 2,000 shares in the Dairy Farm Co. of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid up in consideration of certain restrictive covenants entered into by them and by way of bonus as compensation for their loss of office.

An extraordinary meeting will be called shortly in connection with this matter, and I have no doubt that you will then express your approval of the agreement. I now beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts, and after the resolution has been seconded if any shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Sir C. P. CHATER seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Sir Paul Chater, and the Rev. Pere Robert were re-elected the consulting committee, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, seconded by Mr. C. W. Beswick.

Messrs. A. R. Lowe and E. A. M. Williams were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$200. The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were ready and could be obtained at the office. The meeting then terminated.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—We regret having to submit such an unfortunate statement of last year's working, but you are doubtless well aware that sugar is subject to wide fluctuations in value, and it is due to a decline of about 50 per cent. in Java raw prices and greatly increased costs of refining that the year shows such an adverse result. The scarcity of tonnage brought about the heavy decline in Java sugar prices during the past 12 to 15 months, as it was impossible to market the crop adequately, and as this affected values in China, we had to write down our refined stocks very considerably. During the past 12 months prices in China have dropped roughly about 12 to 13 per cent. In fact, the loss on our China business has been extremely heavy, as during the period under review we made quite satisfactory profits on our orders for other outlets. Japanese competition has been keener than ever and the output of Japanese refineries has increased during the year. The high rate of silver exchange is of great assistance to them, but their own protected market is their strong point. The position practically resolves itself into this, the Chinese consumer of refined sugar is supplied by the Japanese refineries at the expense of the Japanese consumer, and I wonder how long the Japanese consumer will be content with this state of affairs.

At times the Japanese refineries were even selling refined sugar in China below the cost of raw sugar. The scarcity of tonnage has affected us adversely in every way. We have to pay much higher rates on our raw and refined sugar and also upon all materials used in production, etc. Take coal, for instance, which is one of our most essential items. The additional cost over that of the previous year was about \$80,000, and I am afraid that it will be even worse for the current year. This is another matter where existing circumstances greatly benefit our neighbours in Japan. Since the war commenced, coal-owners in that country have been able to raise the f.o.b. price of coal from about Y.4.90 to Y.13 per ton. There is reported to be plenty of coal in the neighbouring provinces of China, but the Chinese have so far done little or nothing to either develop their Southern coalfields themselves or to allow others to do so. The poor state of the China trade and the other adverse conditions have resulted in the slow movement of stock and consequently a heavy burden of interest.

Fire Insurance, etc.—As regards raw sugar, we have fortunately pursued a hand-to-mouth policy for the past year or so, and our supplies are therefore only moderate and at a price that may reasonably be assumed to be safe. Our policy of systematic repairs and renewals of the refinery plant and equipment is being maintained, and in addition to last year's allocation from profits of \$75,000, we have also spent \$37,496.48, which has been charged to the Working Account of year. These outlays were essential, but are showing satisfactory returns in the improved efficiency of our works. In spite of the unfortunate result of last year's working, the financial position of the Company is sound, as we now have a practically modern and well-equipped property standing in the books at less than the value of the land alone. You are doubtless aware that the values of almost all commodities have greatly enhanced owing to the war, and the inevitable reaction is only to be expected when there is a cessation of hostilities. When it is remembered that Java raw sugar advanced about 100 per cent during 1915, and has declined almost to a similar extent during the past 12/13 months, it is to be hoped that our last year's unfortunate working has embodied all the adverse re-adjustment of values that may be necessary, and that future conditions generally may be more favourable for us.

The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were ready and could be obtained at the office. The meeting then terminated.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

The fortieth annual general meeting of the China Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., Hongkong, was held yesterday morning at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. (general agents). The Hon. Mr. D. Landale (Chairman) presided, and there were also present:—The Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. A. O. Lang, and Mr. H. P. White (consulting committee), Messrs. G. M. Shaw (manager), C. W. Beswick (Hon. Secretary), the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, A. J. David, A. Crapnell, P. C. Potts, F. Smyth, R. Hancock, E. J. Grist, M. P. de Graze, Lo Cheung Shui, J. W. Stewart, Cho Po Shien, S. E. de Luz, Ho Kwong, A. G. C. de Silva, R. M. Austin, D. G. M. Bernard, A. C. Davidson, and H. M. H. Numaee (shareholders).

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INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD

ESTABLISHED 1850.

AND COMPANY.

TELEPHONE 1741.

WE ARE NOW STOCKING A CHOICE SELECTION OF HALL-MARKED

STERLING SILVER GOODS

SUITABLE FOR

WEDDING, COMPLIMENTARY AND CHRISTENING PRESENTS.

THE DESIGNS ARE QUITE UNIQUE,

INCLUDING

COPIES FROM ANTIQUE PATTERNS.

CAKE STANDS.

SALVERS.

MENU STANDS.

BONBON

DISHES.

SUGAR AND

CREAM SETS.

Etc.



MANICURE SETS.

TRINKET

BOXES.

PUFF JARS.

CIGARETTE

BOXES.

Etc.

TEA AND COFFEE SERVICES, FLOWER VASES.

AGENTS FOR

COMMUNITY PLATE

"The Aristocrat of the Dining Table."

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.



"MEXICAN"

LUBRICATING GRAPHITES.

FOUNDRY FACINGS.

GRAPHITE PIPE CEMENT

THE WAR.

BRITISH ESTABLISHED IN NEW POSITIONS.

HEAVY TOLL EXACTED FROM ENEMY.

GERMANS MULTIPLY ATTACKS AGAINST FRENCH.

HEAVY LOSSES BY THE ENEMY.

OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

BRITISH ESTABLISHED IN NEW POSITIONS.

LONDON, March 28th.
3.15 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The fighting died down during the night and our troops have established themselves in their new positions eastward of Roye and Albert.

A continuance of the fighting northward of the Somme was expected, but has not yet developed.

Attacks were reported to be developing this morning against the British and French southward of the Somme, in the neighbourhood of Roye and Chaules.

The enemy's losses continue severe.

He has been obliged to reinforce his battle front from all parts of the Western theatre. Over 70 hostile Divisions are known to have been engaged in the battle.

AUSTRIAN MILITARY EXPERTS RESERVED.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

Austrian military experts are most reserved as regards the German offensive. They say that they must see the effect of the Allied counter-effort.

German correspondents claim that six British Tanks were captured.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN TROOPS OCCUPY BAPAUME.

LONDON, March 28th.
1.20 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports that the enemy's troops occupy Bapaume.

BRITISH FORCED TO GIVE GROUND.

Tire was very severe fighting all day on the fronts southward of Peronne and southward and northward of Bapaume.

The enemy attacked our positions in great strength with fresh forces, and, despite our gallant resistance, we were forced to give ground.

The enemy occupy Nesle and Bapaume. Heavy fighting continues.

AIRIAL OPERATIONS.

LONDON, March 28th.
1.50 a.m.

Activity in the air was very great during the day and was remarkable for the weight of bombs dropped and the number of lights.

Many thousands of rounds were fired from low altitudes upon the enemy's troops.

Aeroplane reported the progress of the battle and informed the artillery of suitable targets.

Low-fliers bombed and machine-gunned masses of troops in the battle area.

Over 1,700 bombs were dropped in the daytime on different targets, including Bruges, Dock, Aulnoye railway station, a large camp south-eastward of Cambrai, and high-velocity guns and hostile reinforcements. The fighting is the most severe we have experienced.

We brought down 47 enemy machines and drove down 32 uncontrollable.

Ten of ours are missing. After dark we continued bombing and machine-gunning the enemy troops opposite the battle-front.

We also bombed Bruges Dock and an aerodrome between Tournai and Mons used by night-fliers.

Over 14 tons of bombs were dropped. All our machines returned.

One large enemy bomber landed behind our lines.

RAIDS IN GERMANY.

Following a successful daylight raid on Mannheim, other objectives in Germany were attacked at night-time. We dropped half-a-ton of bombs on the railway stations at Cologne, starting a fire.

Over a ton of bombs were distributed on Luxembourg railway station, where a fire started, and on Courcelles railway station, eastward of Metz, and two tons of bombs on Metz railway station. We obtained direct hits on a bridge south-east of the town and on a stationary train, which was set on fire. A large fire was also started.

A ton of bombs were also dropped on Thionville railway station, where a moving train was derailed, and a fire caused.

All our machines returned.

HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS BEATEN OFF.

LONDON, March 28th.
9.30 p.m.

The Press Bureau announces:—Our troops this morning on the Somme, northward to Wancourt, beat off continuous heavy attacks with complete success, our artillery and machine-guns inflicting heavy losses. Our low-flying aeroplanes are repeatedly attacking the enemy's advancing columns farther in the rear.

A heavy attack in the afternoon by fresh enemy troops enabled them to progress westward and south-westward of Bapaume in the direction of Courcelles. We have been pressed back southward of Peronne at several places to slightly westward of the Somme.

FRESH MEN AND GUNS TO REPLACE ALL CASUALTIES.

LONDON, March 28th.
10.10 p.m.

The Press Bureau announces:—The Cabinet wishes to express to the British Army the Nation's thanks for its splendid defence. The whole Empire is filled with pride and is watching the heroic resistance of the brave troops against overwhelming odds. Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the country's honour depends upon their valour, the Empire confidently awaits the results of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down free nations. We at home are prepared to do all in our power to help in the true spirit of comradeship. The men necessary to replace all casualties, and the guns and machine-guns required to make good the losses, are either now in France or are already en route, and still further reinforcements in men and guns are ready to be thrown into the battle. —LLOYD GEORGE.

ARMY'S GRATEFUL THANKS TO KING GEORGE.

LONDON, March 28th.
11.15 p.m.

The Press Bureau announces:—Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig replied as follows to His Majesty:—Your Majesty's message has given universal encouragement. The whole army beg your Majesty to accept their grateful thanks and assurance that we will speedily continue to do our utmost to deserve the inspiring confidence your Majesty and people throughout the Empire have placed upon us in this hour of national stress.

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LATEST CABLES.

BRITISH WITHDRAWAL EXACTS HEAVY TOLL.

LONDON, March 28th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day states:—Very slowly, and exacting the heaviest possible toll for every foot of ground, our line continues to withdraw before the pressure of the German masses over a large portion of the battle zone. The retirement is voluntary, and has been carried out so as to maintain an unbroken front.

The weather remains hard and dry, thus favouring the enemy in bringing forward his guns.

"THE EYES OF THE ARTILLERY."

LONDON, March 28th.
5.10 p.m.

The work of our airmen surpasses praise. Last night they made a veritable pandemonium of every centre of concentration and traffic behind the German front. Tens of thousands of rounds were fired pointblank into the enemy formations, whose density offered perfect targets. German observation is so restricted by day that they never can do more than peep and run. On the other hand, our fliers are fulfilling with deadly effectiveness their rôle of "the eyes of the artillery." In this direction the weather is undoubtedly favouring us.

EARLIER CABLES.

CLOSE INFANTRY FIGHTING.

LONDON, March 28th.
11.15 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of March 28th, stated:—The titanic struggle has continued unabated.

Although the enemy artillery firing shows a tendency to decrease, owing to the increasing difficulties in advancing the guns, on the other hand, no stage of the war has seen such close infantry fighting. Yesterday a British infantry bayonet charge broke the enemy ranks and secured 120 prisoners. One battalion of the 24th Division captured a post in a great quarry commanding one of the main lines of the enemy advance and fought to the last man, delaying the enemy and piling up corpses in a semi-circular barricade breast high around the quarry.

A MARVELLOUS FEAT.

The manner in which guns, tanks and transport were withdrawn behind the retiring line constitutes a marvellous feat.

After crossing the Somme we blew up all the bridges except one, which was so commanded by our guns that it was advantageous to leave it. The enemy engaged in efforts to cross the Somme have been prodigious. Again and again, massed parties on rafts and pontoons were annihilated by our guns, but ultimately a passage was effected by the famous Brandenburg Iron Corps near Licourt under a hailstorm of fire and only after innumerable failures.

TANKS CAUSE HAVOC.

At a certain place a large force of the enemy had thrust its way through and gained what promised to develop into a distinct tactical advantage, but, during an enemy pause to reorganise, ten tanks advanced and caused havoc in the German ranks, and finally drove them back.

SCENES ON THE ROADS.

The scenes on the roads leading to the rear have been most remarkable during the past three days with parties of civilians and villagers shepherded by soldiers, mixed labour groups, impassive Orientals in all varieties of headgear, and African natives grinning as though the thing were a huge joke. Here a clanked armoured-car, speeding back for ammunition, there a motor-lorry stacked with maps and records, and with a fedd hatted officer perched on top.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN TANKS IN ADVANCE.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

A Berlin semi-official message claims that German Tanks played a leading part in the advance south-east of St. Quentin.

EARLIER CABLES.

COL. REPINGTON'S OPINION.

LONDON, March 28th.
7.30 a.m.

Colonel Repington states:—Bapaume and Peronne have fallen four days after the German scheduled time. There is every reason to hope that the flood will soon be stayed and turned back. The combatants in the central sector are now fighting in the devastated area of the Somme battle. Further west there are trenches which the British held before July, 1914, and before the retirement brings the British to these trenches such a strong line of troops should be formed that the further progress of the enemy should be arrested.

GERMAN PRESS COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

The German newspapers are preparing the public for a long struggle.

The Cologne Gazette reminds the people that the Germans are dealing with a most formidable enemy, and that a stupendous task is still ahead. The British are fighting with extraordinary determination and bravery.

The Cologne Volkszeitung says the gigantic struggle cannot shortly be ended, perhaps not for months.

Several papers point out that the Allies' general reserve has not yet been called upon.

THE KAISER'S CLAIMS.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

A Berlin message says the Kaiser has telegraphed the Kaiserin stating, *inter alia*, that the troops are pressing on westward from Bapaume, and farther south are advancing on Albert. The Somme was crossed at many points above Peronne.

He claims the capture of enormous quantities of ammunition and provisions, "just as after the Isonzo battle."

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, March 28th.
11.25 p.m.

A wireless German official report states:—There was hard fighting between Bapaume and Peronne.

We drove back the enemy here to the positions he held before the 1916 Somme battle.

Our troops are fighting their way forward between the Somme and the Oise.

THE NATION'S DETERMINATION.

LONDON, March 28th.
7.20 a.m.

As evidence develops that the Germans are not likely to gain a decision in face of the magnificent British resistance, public opinion, which, though anxious, has never been unduly depressed, is now bracing itself in a determination to acquiesce in whatever measures are necessary to meet the admittedly critical situation. All contention has been silenced. There was a flicker of labour restlessness at Manchester recently when the unofficial representatives of the engineers threatened to strike against the man-power proposals, but this was promptly extinguished by an outburst of popular indignation, in which even the pacifists joined, and meetings of the district branches of the Amalgamated Engineers' Society yesterday repudiated the Manchester decisions, in which the Executive had no part.

NET RESULT OF GERMAN MOVEMENT.

LONDON, March 28th.
7.35 a.m.

Everywhere unshaken confidence is expressed that the undaunted front presented by the British troops will baffle the

enemy, who, with troops four or five times more numerous, has only scored a moderate success, has endured colossal losses, and is already showing signs of flagging. The net result of the German movement so far is that he has made three bulges in the British line, namely, south of Arras, at Bapaume and towards Nesle, but he has failed in the north, where the steadiness of the British line has checked the enemy's double thrust.

POLITICAL OBJECT OF OFFENSIVE.

That the enemy's offensive has a political object is corroborated by an article by a prominent Londoner, Mr. Ernest Pyke, who was released from Ruhleben after 3½ years. He frequently visited Berlin as a camp kitchen inspector.

He says the present desperate move is undoubtedly dictated by the fear of the mob, as the German people are suffering unappealable privations, and are aching for peace and food.

This estimate is confirmed by the reiterated assurances of the enemy *communiqués* recently that peace was near at hand. On the other hand, British opinion is confident of the Allied reserve power rallying and in the determination to endure if necessary the most protracted conflict.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

The Morning Post demands the immediate convocation of Parliament for the purpose of sanctioning the extension of national service, raising the military age, abolishing all exceptions, including conscientious objectors, departmental dispensables and the Irish.

The Morning Post is confident that no trouble is to be apprehended from Labour.

CAN THE ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES RE-OCCUPY OLD LINE?

The Times notes with pride and satisfaction the fortitude with which the country is facing a grave situation.

The paper says the one desire is that the Government will not lose time in making whatever fresh demands may be required of the civilian population.

The Times points out that the Germans have not succeeded in their supreme object, of driving a wedge between the British and French armies, and the prospect of such a success is more remote than ever. It says that the immediate problem is whether the British and French forces are able to reoccupy approximately the 1916 line.

A REASONABLE DEMAND.

The Daily News demands a more detailed statement of the progress of the battle from Headquarters, and says that if there is unfavourable news the public would prefer to learn it from our own official statements than from the Germans.

THE GERMAN CEASELESS TIDE.

LONDON, March 28th.
7.00 a.m.

Mr. Philip Gibbs reports:—British heavy and field-guns were handled with marvellous discipline in the rearguard actions in positions which became untenable, the gunners firing for hours at masses of Germans moving close to their vicinity, causing deadly losses, but the masses did not cease to advance, bearing down the defenders by their ceaseless tide. Some guns were abandoned, but many were withdrawn across the Somme, the gunners taking up new positions and re-entering into action like an exhibition of batteries.

RAPID MOVEMENT OF ENEMY'S HEAVY GUNS.

Mr. Percival Phillips says that the most remarkable feature of the German advance has been the rapid movement of heavy guns. This phase of open warfare has been carefully rehearsed for months. British airmen saw howitzers lumbering along the roads in endless columns, motor-lorries bringing up shells to the new positions, and the guns come into action anywhere. In the open, field-batteries were repeatedly seen galloping boldly across the rising ground less than a mile from the British. Behind the advancing armies comes another army of workmen repairing the destroyed railways and bridges, erecting new hospitals and aerodromes. The offensive in the air is prosecuted with equal vigour. Large formations of Gothas every night have tried to cut communications and have dropped unusually heavy explosives, but the damage done has been insignificant.

AUSTRIAN GENERAL'S OPINION.

ZURICH, March 28th.

General Aussenberg, interviewed by a Budapest newspaper, said that this decisive battle would last for some time. The Central Powers' forces will have to be engaged in it. The final decision may be dependent upon them after intense losses on both sides.

THE FRENCH COUNTER-ATTACKING.

LONDON, March 28th.
12.45 a.m.

A French *communiqué* states:—Furiously the enemy is ceaselessly bringing in reinforcements.

Our troops, obeying orders, are yielding ground foot by foot and delivering vigorous counter-attacks, inflicting heavy losses.

A desperate fight occurred round Nesle, which changed hands several times. Rheims has received 1,375 shells during the past twenty-four hours.

The Balkans.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

OPERATIONS IN MACEDONIA.

POSSIBILITY OF ENEMY ATTACK.

SALONIKA, March 28th.

General Danglas, in an interview, said that the possibility of an enemy attack in Macedonia could not be regarded seriously when the enemy was concentrating as many troops as possible on the Western Front. In any case, the Allies' entrenchments are able to resist any attack.

(Continued on Page 6.)

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

PARIS, March 28th.

A semi-official statement says:—The momentary rupture on the front, which on Saturday threatened to separate the British and French armies, is now checked, and all the units engaged in the struggle are firmly welded together. The moral of the troops is admirable, and the co-operation of the British and French General Staffs becomes closer daily.

NOYON EVACUATED.

PARIS, March 28th.

A *communiqué* states that Noyon was evacuated at night-time in quite an orderly manner.

We are firmly holding the right bank of the Oise.

ENEMY ATTACKS MULTIPLIED.

LONDON, March 28th.
4.15 p.m.

The battle continued violently on the evening of March 28th.

The enemy at night-time multiplied his attacks along the entire front from Noyon to Chaumont.

Our artillery, which is well established in the region of Noyon, effectively supported the infantry, whose resistance and frequent counter-attacks are retarding the thrust of the Germans, who have had very heavy losses.

ALLIED COUNTER-MEASURES.

LONDON, March 28th.
8.25 a.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters reports:—To-day's news should be read with entire calm and unshaken confidence. That our front will be compelled to recede under Hindenburg's hammer blows is inevitable, and was fully foreseen by the Allied Staffs, whose counter-measures, prepared in advance, will take effect at the right moment. These first days of the battle probably mark the high-water level of the German advance. The enemy still enjoys the advantage of offensive, and is able to select the point at which the blow is to be aimed, while we are obliged to disperse the means for defence to cover all points where the blow might fall.

A PASSING ADVANTAGE.

That advantage, as the history of the war has taught us, is one that quickly passes every hour and brings us nearer the moment when the Allied Armies' reserves will be ready to intervene. Before that moment comes von Hindenburg must have achieved a decision or be prepared to see that it is against him so far with thrice the human material and means employed by the French and British armies.

In the offensives of last year the enemy gained proportionately no more than the Allies in the series of brilliant attacks beginning with Vimy Ridge and ending with Malmaison Fort.

GAINS IN PROPORTION TO FORCES.

All such operations result in a gain of ground exactly in proportion to the accumulation of men and material and the means behind the attacking front. As the Germans have been able to accumulate a greater force behind the front than the Allies have ever been able to achieve, their advance has been proportionately swifter and greater than ours. It will not less certainly be brought to a stop as soon as the initial momentum is absorbed by exhaustion in battle.

The Germans are advancing through the same territory in which, through their own criminal folly, they will not find a whole roof, except in the towns Guiseard and Ham, nor an inhabitant, nor an ounce of food.

DIRECTIONS OF GERMAN ADVANCE.

The German advance seems to lie in two general directions, one due west across the battlefield of the Somme, and another south-west upon Noyon, behind which lies the Compiègne road to Paris, but the way to the capital is blocked by a powerful French Army under a General of proved capacity. Maybe the enemy rush in this direction has already slackened.

Chauny, on the bank of the Oise, which the Germans hold now in the front line, is a mere heap of ruins.

A REGRETTABLE CONSEQUENCE OF ENEMY ADVANCE.

A regrettable consequence of the German advance is that relief work in the devastated districts is brought to a stop. Numerous French, British and American charitable agencies are obliged to withdraw from this work, which was largely in the hands of compassionate American ladies, who now see the fruits of their labour once more destroyed by the invader.

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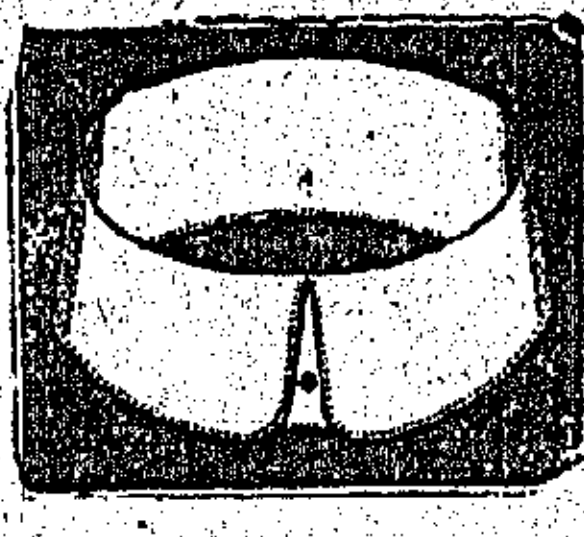
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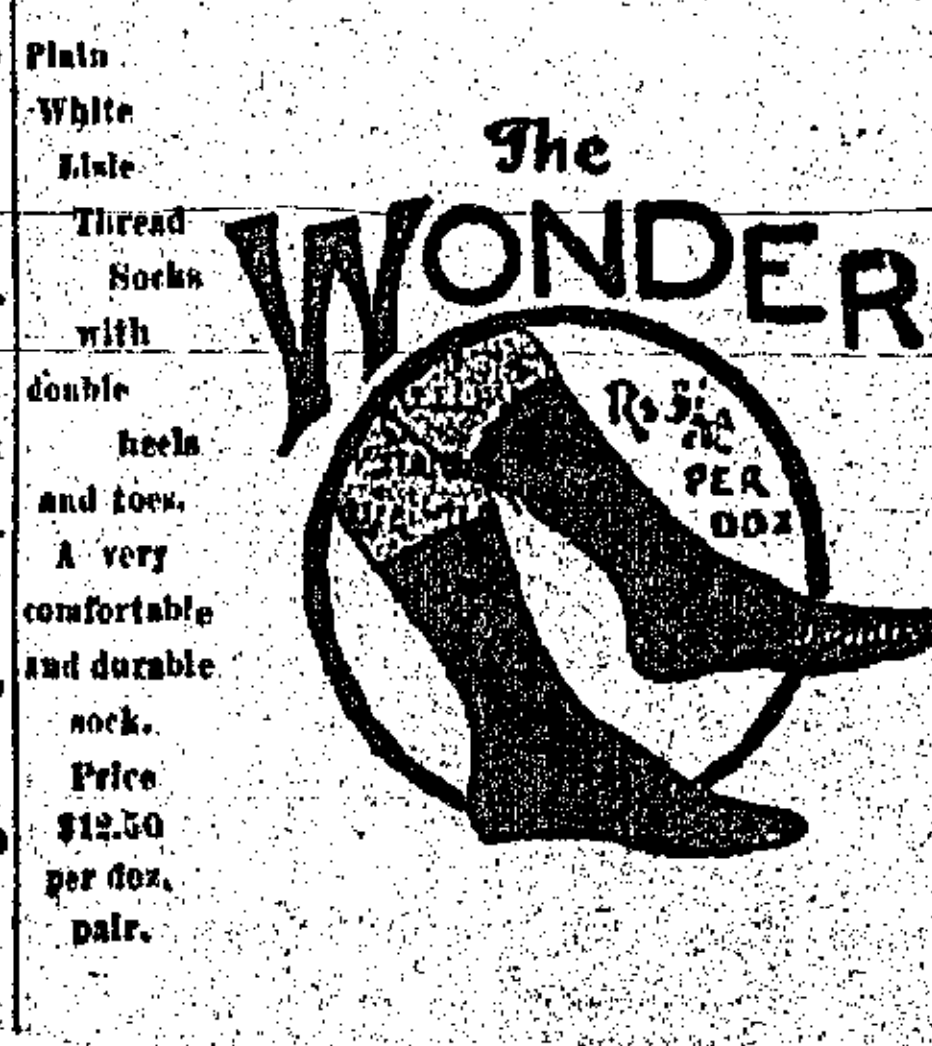
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THE WAR.

(Continued from Page 5.)

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO AIR SERVICES.

London, March 26th.
The Press Bureau announces:—The Air Council has congratulated the Naval Air Service, the Flying Corps, and the Australian Flying Corps on their splendid work in the great battle.

EARLIER CABLES.

NAVAL AEROPLANES ACTIVE

LONDON, March 26th.
9.30 p.m.

The Admiralty report:—Naval aeroplanes from Dunkirk between March 21st and 24th destroyed 10 enemy machines, and brought down seven uncontrolled. A hostile balloon was brought down. We carried out three bombing raids on Bruges Docks, obtaining many direct hits on the sheds upon the quays. Bombs burst close to destroyers.

Aeroplanes attacked several torpedo-boats, a destroyer and an armed trawler. A pilot who was forced to descend to the sea was picked up by a French destroyer.

All the others returned.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET.

KIIEV, March 26th.
The Ukrainian War Minister has ordered the demobilisation of the Black Sea Fleet.

The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE.

BRILLIANT ATTACK BY LONDON BATTALION.

LONDON, March 26th.
9.30 p.m.

A Palestine official report states:—We threw fresh bridges across the Jordan on the night of March 23rd.

We had progressed by the night of March 24th nine miles through difficult and mountainous country in the direction of Esalt.

Our advanced mounted troops secured the bridge at El Howej, which is three miles southward of the town.

The Three-Germans opposing our advance were taken prisoner.

A London Infantry Battalion, in a brilliant attack, captured an entire battery.

Aeroplanes, including Australian units, effectively bombed the enemy, directly hitting troops, transport and camps, also trains on the Hedjaz railway.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN.

WASHINGTON, March 26th.

Mr. McAdoo has announced that the amount of the Third Liberty Loan is Three Billion Dollars at 4 1/2 per cent.

All over-subscriptions will be accepted.

EARLIER CABLES.

AMERICAN GENERAL'S TESTIMONY.

WASHINGTON, March 26th.

General Wood, testifying before the Senate Military Committee, declared that experts were unanimously confident that the German offensive would fail. He recommended that an American army of 2,000,000 men be maintained abroad as soon as possible, and that another 2,000,000 be trained.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S CONGRATULATIONS.

President Wilson cabled to Sir Douglas Haig congratulating him on the British stand and predicting final victory.

RECRUITING IN AMERICA.

New York, March 26th.

The news of the fighting has stimulated recruiting. There was a rush of applicants for enlistment yesterday.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, March 26th.

The silver market is steady.

ENGLAND'S OTHER HALF.

I have just returned from a tour in the industrial districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, writes a special correspondent of the Daily Express on January 11th. I have wandered up and down streets, choosing mean streets wherever I could. I have spent hours in markets, watching the business of shopping. I have gossiped with all sorts and conditions of men, avoiding the "lenders of the people" who "speak for their fellow citizens," and whom "a sense of responsibility" prevents from speaking their own minds. Everywhere I have found abounding prosperity. Wages are high. There is no unemployment. The casual labourer has found permanent work. Cities like Sheffield have added tens of thousands to their population without exhausting the demand for labour.

High wages naturally led to unprecedented spending. There does not seem to be any widespread saving for a rainy day, but, on the other hand, it would be unfair to say that prosperity has led to general waste. It is true that theatres, music-halls, and cinemas are crowded throughout industrial England. This is, however, a reasonable expenditure where men and women are working long hours in factories and munition shops. There has been much buying of new furniture. There has been a very obvious run on the boot shops.

BOOTS TELL.

Like the gentleman in the "Pilgrim's Progress," I have yalked the streets with my eyes on the ground. I have been carefully investigating boots, especially children's boots. Nearly all of them were stout and weather-proof. In Oldham, and sometimes in Manchester, the wooden clogs clatter over the cobbles, but they are the exception. In Birkenhead and in Mr. T. P. O'Connor's constituency, in Liverpool, the boots were broken and sometimes even odd. The wearers' accent betrayed their nationality, and among the Irish a broken boot may accompany a full stomach as well as a kind heart.

Boots are dear. The fact, therefore, that the great majority of children are well shod is a convincing evidence both of prosperity and of the legitimate use of money. A Roman Catholic priest, with an extensive parish outside Liverpool, told me that Lancashire children are better fed, better clothed, and better cared for than they have ever been before. Certainly the ragged boys and girls that used to hang around railway stations are no longer to be found. Taking children as a test (and there could be no surer test), the other England, north of the Trent, is a better country than it was before the war.

Boots are sound in Lancashire, and, happily, the distinctive shawl remains not an evidence of poverty, but a proof of the Lancashire woman's practical common sense. The Lancashire shawl must be a warm and comfortable garment, and it is certainly attractive. It may be hoped that neither prosperity nor the hateful tendency to uniformity in clothing will contrive its disappearance. Japan is discarding its kimono. Let Lancashire stick to its shawl. Ruskin once eulogized the working-class love for bright colours. Many of the shawls which I have seen were a sheer joy in their contrast to the murky, colourless streets.

A CONTRAST.

I noticed a distinct contrast in the appearance of the streets in Sheffield and in Oldham. Both cities are triumphantly ugly. Sheffield is dumped in a hole. It reminds me of the Mile End Road, grey and murky, and with none of the irrepressible East End jollity. Oldham is almost indescribable, but its shawls give it a humanity which Sheffield lacks. The colour of the shawls has its effect on the spirits of the people. They laugh and joke in Oldham, but they are very dour in Sheffield.

A country's clothes are always an indication of its character. The other England is practical, and there is a common avoidance of tawdry shoddy. Even "Sunday best" is serviceable. Really warm coats, hats that can survive rain, frequent macintoshes, always, the stout boot—these are the rule. I did not see a single woman wearing the comic opera boots that have made London ridiculous in recent times.

Prosperity is by no means confined to one class. The excess profit tax left the Lancashire and Yorkshire manufacturer a generous surplus. The Midland Hotel, Manchester, which with its surroundings, is a sort of Savoy built on the site of the Elephant and Castle, is a striking proof that times are good. You see an ample supply of jewels and furs, but the women, if they do not attain Parisian smartness, certainly avoid the theatrical and the exaggerated. What may be called the "shawl practicality" extends to the class that abandoned the shawl a generation ago.

There is a food scarcity in the north as well as in the south. Butter was unobtainable when I was in Sheffield, and everywhere the supplies of margarine and tea were restricted. Meat, too, was hard to buy. Scarcity is unquestionable, causing deep irritation, but it is the irritation of people who have plenty of money to spend and nothing to buy. At present the scarcity is nothing more than an irritation. The other England has been living well for over three years. It is a plump England. The plumpness affects its point of view and influences its attitude towards the war and in the constant disputes that affect its industrial life.

The condition of life in the districts which I visited remain depressing and in a sense inhuman. Ugliness is rampant and the housing conditions are even lamentable. I do not, indeed, suggest that life in Lancashire and Yorkshire has approached the ideal, but as far as food and clothes are concerned it is unquestionably prosperous.

PRODUCTS OF MESOPOTAMIA

[BY LIEUT. C. HANSFORD.]

The foetid, undredged sea-reaches of the Shatt-el-Arab, where the combined waters of the Euphrates and Tigris enter the steaming Persian Gulf, mark the most southern and westerly productive portion of Mesopotamia. Here, victors over miasmatic marsh and reedy swamp, the southern Muntifis—a hardy, earnest race of Bedouins—have settled, and assiduously cultivated the date palm. Within a single generation, turning from desert wanderers to agricultural settlers, they have proved the worth of the Arab as a tiller of the fields and the grower of luscious fruit, for their exports are already worth more than a quarter of a million pounds sterling annually. Able, to-day, thanks to the presence in Mesopotamia of the British expedition, to produce, pack, and export their fruit under favourable conditions, they are making great strides in civilisation; the exactions of the past, the apathy of the Government, and the general misrule to which they were formerly subjected being now only unhappy memories.

Along both banks of the Shatt-el-Arab cultivation is moving space, just as in far Aleppo the merchants, reading the signs of the times, are either purchasing, or at least entering into partnerships to control, the many rich fields adjacent to their city which have been allowed hitherto to become Bedouin grazing grounds instead of producing abundant crops. The western fringe of the Euphrates, to which the Syrian desert thrusts forward its burning sands, in a constant struggle to obliterate the pasture, marks the limit of cultivation there. From Hiss, famous for its bitumen, eastwards and across the Tigris is a vast stretch of land, about two-thirds of which is inefficiently cultivated, and the rest sheer swamp, the haunt of flamingo, of white-plumed pelican with feathers suffused with the pink of dawn, of subtler birds and beasts of prey, and, subtlest of all, predatory man.

While the Tigris and Euphrates rise not far from each other, in the high lands of Armenia, there is considerable difference in the length of their respective courses. The Tigris, swift and impetuous, almost all the way from its source to its junction with the Euphrates, has a course of about eleven hundred miles. The Euphrates, meandering in parts, extends its journey for six hundred miles more, and is more kindly to the earth. It traverses, so that along its entire banks, with few exceptions, there stretches a green ribbon of fertility far beyond that of its twin river. Beyond Hiss and Tekrit, in the great enclosure which the rivers make, and which the Arabs call *el-Jezira*, the Island, lies the Great Steppe. It is commonly thought of as a desert, but in all Mesopotamia there is no desert except what man has wilfully made by his neglect of nature. The Steppe is a vast, rolling plain, resembling the great Syrian desert rather than the Neuf Desert of Arabia or the Libyan Desert of Africa. Covered with detritus, it has no arboreal plants, but the hand of man, and not of nature, is responsible, for this Steppe in ancient days was cultivated, perhaps not as highly as the alluvial, southern plains, but yet nourishing a large population, and forming a centre of an agricultural civilisation.

After the rains of winter, which begin in November and end in February, the whole Steppe is covered with coarse vegetation, and the Bedouins wander from shallow to shallow depression, where the aromatic tufts and fragrant, flowering herbage afford sweet pasture to their flocks. In summer there comes a great change; weeds, rank and noisome, spring up from the monotonous, stony ground, and having little earth in which to root, are torn up by the scorching, wild winds and whirled, in high confusion and riot, withered stalk and seeded gossamer, mile upon mile from their arid haunt. Patches of this Steppe, especially south, are impregnated with salt, for the old coast-line of Mesopotamia ran at least as far north as Hiss. To deal with it will need all the arts of magic. If the land is to be rescued, but it certainly can be done. More northerly still, we leave the Steppe, there is a belt of pasture land, struggling against outcropping rock and mallowy mere; beyond, where the cities rise—such as Aleppo, Hama, Urfa, Mardin, and Nesibis—the land is arable and foliage comes into view, as well as flowering tree and bush, and glorious gardens of riotous, Persian roses.

In upper Mesopotamia—as in all the country, indeed—there has been a steady and ominous decline in agriculture ever since the Osmanli Turk set ill-conditioned foot upon so fair a country. At Urfa, and about, the soil is a rich brown loam, extraordinarily fertile, which, when the rains are kindly, produces wheat and barley with extremely long stalks and fine ears, the seed being multiplied fifty-fold in the ear. When rain is scarce, as often, the crops fail, for the old system of irrigation, which made the agriculturist, here as elsewhere in Mesopotamia, independent of rainfall, has practically disappeared, although the old canal ways are partly existent. By Ras-el-Ain and the district which the Chabur waters with its many tributaries, there is a long stretch of fertile land, while where the Serug is circled by the high land, rice grows, for the opportunity to bring this semi-aquatic plant to perfection by swamping the ground till its maturity, can thus be afforded. Millet, too, is grown; the olive, which produces oil, is so valuable a food for the people of all the nearer east in whose lands it grows, is replaced here by scammon. Fields of cotton, of hemp, and of the tobacco plant may be met, and the Singar Hills are famous for a finely-flavoured fig grown there. Along the banks of the rivers and their tributaries, cucumbers and melons are grown; the water variety of the latter is cultivated largely in the alluvial mud, when the rivers shrink in summer with the torrid heat.

The date palm is cultivated chiefly in the south of Mesopotamia, along the river banks of the Euphrates and Tigris. In the rich alluvial land, which includes that in which old Babylon was situated, where swamps do not altogether hinder cultivation, rice is grown, as well as maize and the tobacco plant. In the extreme south, during the present British occupation, a considerable stretch of land has been laid out in vegetable production to supply the Expeditionary Force, the result being a striking success, aiding very materially to secure the good health of the army of occupation. Mesopotamia is a typical cotton and wheat-growing country. Herodotus states it was the best soil the world knew for the production of grain; that both wheat and barley had much straw, the ears of the wheat and barley growing fully four fingers' width across, while, with the best of irrigated culture, it increased three-hundredfold from seed to ear. Millet, again, grew so prolifically that he hesitated to state its production, lest he should be accused of exaggeration; only by actual sight of the abundant crops could the fertility of the soil be understood.

Even omitting the Steppe, the land stretching from Aleppo to Mosul is seen to be capable of producing cereals in abundance; on both banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, the same conditions exist, while the stretch of alluvial land, below Hiss and Tekrit to the Persian Gulf, is so rich that, although portions of it have been cultivated for over four thousand years, there are no signs of exhaustion of the soil. Yet, the country does not, in fact, produce to-day one-thousandth part of what it did formerly and what it is capable of bearing again, under settled conditions. Round the rivers, and between them—in *el-Jezira*, too, of all places—are marshes, jungle, and reedy swamp. A blight seems, indeed, to have settled over the whole land; the ancient irrigating canals have either completely disappeared or are damaged beyond repair, while, at best, a little water trickles down the centre of their beds, which are generally choked with weeds, a foe for want of cleaning, or miasmatic, breeders of fever-carrying flies and mosquitoes. The rivers usually overflow their banks annually, and frequently burst them; terrible inundations destroy the crops or, by diverting the waters from their proper channels, bring ruin upon the forests of date-palms, millions of which are to be seen dying for want of water. The country has suffered, again and again, from calamities, such as inundations, pestilence and famine, but its worst tragedy was, when in 1915, Sultan Selim added it to the Turkish dominion. From that disaster it has not recovered. It has, at no time in its history, been a political entity, and between its pashaliks there has been constant enmity, and a continuous attempt to carry favour at Stamboul by a gross exaction of taxation, not all of which reaches its destination, for the taxes are farmed and the number of families paying them is notoriously under-estimated. Apart from the Persian element, the Kurds, Yezidis, and Turkomans, the Arabs, who form the bulk of the population, present considerable difficulties to proper government. They divide into three groups—the settlers of the Steppe and along the river banks; the nomadic population, on the way to join their number; and the periodical vermin of Arab tribes which, leaving the limited area of Arabia, push forward into Mesopotamia, struggling for the scant pasturage of the Steppe, and moving to the rich lands beside the rivers, harrying the settlers proper, or acting "brother money" from the inhabitants of the towns as the price of peace.

Only a firm and just government, making a thoughtful and kindly study of the temperament and desires of these people, could hope to weld the into a harmonious whole that would be for the good of the country at large and of civilisation in general. The heat of the Turk; that of setting tribe against tribe, and of fomenting religious fuds in a vain effort to rule through distion, has been, for centuries, one of the main causes of the unsettlement of the land. Whatever differences the people may have with each other, they untidly recognise the Turk is nothing but a religious tax-gatherer with no interest whatever in their true welfare. Accordingly, he is abhorred by all who live in this much-ill-used land as a usurper, ignorant of the very elements of good government. In spite of the Turk, the southern Muntifis have shown the mettle of their race, and with a settled knowledge that their labour would be for their general and lasting benefit, the Arab tribes would soon weld into a compact, agricultural nation, allowing the freedom and liberty to the rest of the inhabitants that they rightly claim, in Mesopotamia, for themselves.

The extraordinary advance which the subjects of the King of Arabia are making, now that Turkish rule has been thrown off for ever, is a striking testimony and example of the future also of a great Arab nation in Mesopotamia, once the Turkish régime is removed, which, for centuries, has wrought nothing but disaster to the true interests of the country and its inhabitants.

URUGUAY LENDS BRITAIN £15,000,000.

A dispatch from Montevideo says that the Republic of Uruguay has decided to advance a loan of 15,000,000 dollars to the British Government on the condition that Great Britain shall spend it in the purchase of goods produced in the republic.

OUR LONDON LETTER.
THE PRESSING PROBLEM OF
MAN-POWER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, January 21st.

Mr. Lloyd George's phrase "Go on or go under" in his stirring speech to representatives of Trade Unionists in London crystallizes in a few words the problem of man-power before the country. In some respects it was the greatest speech that he has made since he became Prime Minister. It has convinced everybody of the absolute necessity of prosecuting the war to victory that must be final and complete in the military sense. He showed that all the fine talk about peace with the German people as distinct from their rulers is moonshine. The declaration of Allied war aims by President Wilson and by Mr. Lloyd George himself has merely excited the Germans to coarse ridicule and bombast. The only comment on the terms set forth in America and here is that appearing in the German Press, no doubt under official inspiration, "England is weakening."

Moreover, the manifesto on peace terms approved by the Labour Party at the recent Conference in London and addressed to the Socialists of Germany, which contained the minimum of justice acceptable to our Pacificists, has evoked no response beyond the Rhine. "Try to cash that cheque at the Hindenburg bank," exclaimed the Prime Minister in a telling sentence. "It will be returned dishonoured."

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

Since we must enforce our peace-terms by going on with the war, and literally fight for peace, we are faced with the problem of finding more men for the fighting forces. The need is urgent. It will brook no delay. The issue is somewhat similar to that which existed at the end of 1914, when Lord Kitchener sounded his clarion call to the country. The heroes of the First and Second Battles of Ypres stemmed the onrush of the Germans and prevented them seizing the Channel ports, and we have to prevent any similar disaster succeeding in 1918. Three and a half years ago we held on with the French until the New Armies were ready, and we must hold on now until America is ready. Owing to the defection of Russia, something like 1,500,000 enemy troops have been released for service in the West and against Italy. They are thick as locusts in Belgium and along the French frontier in readiness to strike when the weather again permits operations on a big scale. That menace has got to be met. Months must elapse before the soldiers of the Great Republic are fit to take the field, and meanwhile, the Germans mean to try to break through.

FINDING THE MEN.

In dealing with the problem of finding men the Government have wisely decided not to alter the age-limit for military service. The numbers that could be got by that method would not get off the resulting disorganization of business and social life. Besides, men over forty are of small value as combatants under modern conditions. The remaining reservoirs of man-power are chiefly the munition factories, mines, and shipyards. But the workers in the last category cannot be touched, for we want ships as urgently as soldiers; and thus there remain but the other two classes. The young men who flocked into the factories in the early days of the shell shortage will have to come out. It is repugnant to the national conscience and regarded as a scandal that they should remain sheltered while soldiers who have been wounded are sent back to the trenches again and again as soon as they are able to carry a pack and shoulder a rifle. Older men might take the places of the young. The latter, however, are by no means anxious to get into khaki. There is talk on their part of "downing tools" forthwith, and with the backing of their Unions, to hold up the output of munitions should the Government call upon them. Hence the Prime Minister's speech in which he placed the issue with regard to the war clearly before the Trade Union representatives. There is no doubt that he convinced these that for them, as for all of us, there is no other course but to fight on, and that the continuance of the war, despite its hideous horrors and unparelleled agony of suffering, is preferable to German domination over the free peoples of the world. But it remains to be seen whether the "comb out" of the young men will be effected without trouble. Public opinion, at all events, is on the side of the Government.

A QUESTION OF "EXPEDIENTY."

The man-power question draws attention to the extraordinary position of Ireland in relation to the world war. While the whole Empire has contributed 6,750,000 men to the Colours, of which number Great Britain's share is 5,307,000 men, Ireland has only supplied 170,000 soldiers. Yet Ireland is left out of the new Military Service Bill on the ground of political expediency. That is the sole reason, as officially stated in the House of Commons. Mr. Lloyd George says it would be "treason to the State, treason to the country, treason to democracy, treason to the cause of freedom" if the Government failed to make the necessary demand for men now. But what the man in the street asks is why, if it is treason to fail to make the demand upon Great Britain, it is not treason to leave out Ireland? The obvious answer to this and other questions which present themselves is that the Government are afraid of the Irish. Ireland was omitted from the operation of previous Military Service Acts, and the new measure again confers exemption. The present call upon Great Britain is for 450,000 men, and nearly the whole of this number could be provided by young Irishmen who have nothing better to do than drill under the Sun Fein, or march about the country brandishing shillelugs and waving green flags.—H.B.

A LAND OF PROMISE.
THE POSSIBILITIES OF EAST
AFRICA.[FROM AN EAST AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT
OF "THE TIMES".]

What was German East Africa has been cleared of the enemy, and now the question is—apart from the diplomatic settlement of the destination of the territory—how to make the most of its possibilities in conjunction with those of British East Africa and Uganda. These territories form a very considerable part of Equatorial Africa. British East Africa, is an area of 200,000 square miles, is approximately the size of Germany; Uganda is about half that size; while what was German East Africa has an area of 380,000 square miles. Together they are as large as Germany, Austria, and France combined. All parts of these territories are not suitable for European settlement; but many are, and where that is so the possibilities are very great, as European settlers had proved before the war began.

Few people in Great Britain realize the part that the European population of British East Africa played in the campaign. This is not the place to go into it in detail; but it may be as well to remind people at home that the settler in British East Africa who went through that long and trying period of active service has a good deal of leeway to make up now that he is able to return to his farm. The needs of the campaign, for one thing, were a heavy drain on his capital in the form of cattle, wagons and other transport essentials commandeered. Cattle seasoned to the East African conditions are not the product of a moment. They represent many years of development in breeding and of much experiment in inoculation which has gradually conferred on them comparative immunity from local diseases. Wagons, too, are not easy to replace. The military authorities, it is true, have compensated the settlers; but the mere payment of compensation money—though the amounts paid have been fair—is not much good to the owner. What he wants is plants, and this is not easy to get. Financial advances made before the war have also had to be repaid away fighting; and if these have got into arrears, the compensation money must be applied in this way.

The settler is handicapped just now by war restrictions. Coffee, for instance, cannot be exported, and that is a serious thing for East Africa, where the net income for one district in a single year from this source was estimated by the Government to exceed £300,000. Many of the businesses, too, in East Africa are "one man" businesses; and while the campaign was going on, many a man who was left behind watched the interests of three or four who were away at the war, in addition to his own.

There is not the least doubt that East Africa, both British and what was German, will amply repay development. In suitable parts of the territory, particularly in British East Africa, which the writer knows by experience, perseverance and industry guarantee success. A few years of intelligent hard work will make the settler independent. He need have little anxiety about the rearing of a family, for the education of his children. His holding will give profit enough for him to keep and educate them in England if he thinks it necessary. He can have a comfortable home, his life will be agreeable and his surroundings glorious. The climate is beautiful, sport abundant, simple pleasures not beyond his means. He will have plenty to do; but that means the happiness of full days, and the work in large supervision, to which the exile from the British Isles adapts himself so easily. There is no fairer sight than the harvester at work in British East Africa on a large 100-acre block of ripe corn, grown on plains untamed less than 10 years ago, with a view of rugged forested mountains in the distance.

The productive possibilities of East Africa, late German as well as British, are very large. The territories can produce all the wheat flour required for their own people, for a reasonable increase, and for the people of adjacent territories. They produce sugar, though at the moment the actual production is only a small proportion of their requirements. The tea grown there is excellent, though its production has been handicapped by the attractions of other ventures, by the lack of expert knowledge, and by the competition of large tea-growing areas like Ceylon. Coffee-growing is, and will remain, one of the most attractive of East African industries. Production is comparatively easy and the return is high. The net income per annum varies from £12 to £25 10s. per acre. The latter figure was actually reached last year. Something has already been said of the production of high-class livestock. Cattle are graded up from native stock which are endowed them with strong constitutions upon which the good points of imported bulls can be grafted—Shorthorn, Friesian, Devon, Jersey, and so on. Sheep-breeding prospects are hopeful. Before the war the wool of East Africa was winning its way in English markets. Pigs maintain in East Africa their home reputation for profit. The country produces, with the aid of imported stallions, excellent horses and ponies.

Other industries require more capital and scientific training. The production of cattle for tanning purposes has been considerably developed since war began; but proper factories are required to produce tanning extract instead of bark for export. This industry is full of promise. So are those concerned with flax, sisal hemp, dairy produce, tropical and sub-tropical fruits, sugar, cotton, and copra. All these have shown their possibilities and await probable development. Sisal cultivation was, indeed, the leading and a very profitable industry in the ex-German territory at the time of the outbreak of the war.

Meanwhile the great need of both territories is better communications. There are two main arteries of traffic between the coast and the great lakes, but local railway development is vital. Narrow

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"GO."

THE JAPANESE WAR GAME.

Chess and also draughts certainly resemble the "absolute" war of Clausewitz. Nothing in these games counts save the ruthless use of power and position; every man is in play, and no sacrifice of men must be grudged, if it will establish a winning advantage; and the principle of concentrating the utmost force possible at the decisive point is particularly well illustrated. Chess is manifestly a similitude of chivalrous warfare between West and East—the white king is Richard Lionheart, the black king is Saladin. That is why it was at the height of its popularity midway through the Middle Ages. But the more mathematical game of draughts is nearer to the science of modern warfare, in which little visible pomp is left, and sheer numerical superiority is even more important a factor than when Napoleon said that superior valour, though it might win a battle, could not ensure success in a campaign.

But Go, by far the most popular board-game with the educated classes in Japan, is a much closer representation of war than chess or draughts. Invented in China, when the Chinese were fighting Korea, it is, in fact, a mental training in strategy and tactics. It is played on a board of 18 by 18 squares, giving 361 intersection points, and the men (which are placed one by one, the two players playing alternately, on the points where the cross-lines intersect. The men are all of the same value at all times; they are represented (in Japan) by small, smooth stones, of which each player has 180 in a suitable box.

A curious and complex etiquette is observed in the playing of Go, as one might expect from the genius of the Japanese people for manners as a fine art—manners for manners' sake, in fact. For example, it would be regarded (in Japan) as a gross breach of good manners to be content with merely depositing your man on the point you desire to occupy. The only correct way is to lift the little stone in the middle of the right hand so that it rests lightly on the nail of the forefinger, and then lightly place it on the desired spot, which requires a good deal of practice, *capere credet*. Again, it is considered boorish beyond words to take advantage of an opponent's oversight; you must always point them out, and even persuade him to rectify them. There are many other points of etiquette which the gentleman player would think of forgetting. One of them is that the department of a looker-on, who must not give advice to the players or comment audibly on the play. This rule of courtesy is quaintly enforced by the existence of a euphonic depression on the board, in which, in former days, it was customary to place the bleeding head of an interfering spectator. People who play chess in public places and are annoyed by the comments of eager, ignorant bystanders (who always see to see this fine old custom revived and extended).

THE HIGHER OF THE GAME.

But all that happens on the board is ruthless warfare. The players deposit a piece alternately, until the situation of the one or the other field force is beyond the help of reinforcements—the reserves in the laquer box. Points in the final account are scored either by having captured groups of enemy occupied territory, or by having captured some experts (in many cases) by giving points for so many squares surrounded by a cordon of men, inflicting that all-important principle of war which insists that the chief function of an army is to seek out and destroy the enemy's forces in the field. But the progress of the present war has confirmed the theory of Bloch and Fiedler, longish theories of defence may be a considerable advantage, even a permanent one. They certainly constitute an economic gain of vast importance, especially if the resources thereof are fully exploited, and the civil population enmeshed according to German practice. So that Go is correct in attaching a definite value to occupied territory. But more points are generally scored in well-contested games, by successful efforts to surround and capture bodies of the opponent's men. If the enemy disposes his men in "small packets" he is certain to suffer serious losses in this way. The efforts to bring about a miniature Sedan or Tannenberg are apt to be prolonged and fraught with surprises, pleasant and unpleasant. In certain positions, it is found that placing a man on a key-point (called a "key-point") inevitably leads to a notable loss, if the correct play follows. The strategy of Go is common sense in theory; in practice, however, it is very difficult to apply the strategic principles profitably, and long experience is required to make a fine player. Is it not so in actual warfare? Go, in fact, is at the same time the easiest and the most difficult of board-games. Such was the verdict of the masters who attended an International Chess Tournament, some years ago and spent a good deal of their leisure in playing the Japanese war-game. Without diagrams it is impossible to give an idea of the profound and fascinating tactical problems that arise as the board becomes populous. But perhaps enough has been written to show that Go is worth cultivating for its own sake by any warlike nation, and also for the insight it gives into the strong subtle mentality of our Japanese Allies.—Times.

gauge railways should be built, especially in what was German East Africa, to feed the main lines. At the ports commercial accommodation and wharves are most necessary, as is storage room both at the ports and up-country. British East Africa is better equipped in these respects than what was German territory. Funds for development must be found, general stores and trading posts must be established, the whole machinery of production and trade must be extended, and established where it does not now exist. Much can be done by the enterprise of individuals and private firms. But the financial sinews of development need more feeding than this, especially if insidious influences are to be kept out in the future.

INDIAN REFORMS.
LIMITED PROVINCIAL STATE
GOVERNMENT.

Great interest has been taken in India in a scheme of constitutional change formulated, shortly after Mr. Montagu began his investigations with the Viceroy, at a series of informal meetings between 15 Europeans and 20 prominent Indians at Darjeeling and Calcutta. The latter included such well-known Moderates as the Maharajahs of Burdwan, the Maharaja of Nadia, the Maharaja of Pindipur, Maharaja Sir P. K. Tagore, Sir A. G. Gupta (formerly of the Secretary of State's Council), Mr. B. C. Mitter, Mr. S. R. Das, and Dr. Sahasrwarthy. Mr. Lionel Curtis, who has been in India for more than a year past studying the political problem, was the most conspicuous European figure, and is known to have had a predominant share in bringing about the conference and devising a nucleus of agreement. The other Englishmen associated with the movement were mostly business men of Calcutta. Sir Hugh Bray and Sir A. Birkhys have expressed the personal view that the scheme creates a new situation and calls for careful consideration. The "Curtis Scheme," as it is popularly termed, is embodied in an address submitted to the Viceroy and Secretary of State. It is prefaced by the observation that the signatories each act in their private capacities, representing no one but themselves, and are committed to no more than the main specific points on which agreement has been reached, reserving full liberty of judgment regarding the details.

The scheme accepts the pronouncement made by Mr. Montagu for the Cabinet on August 20th last as common ground, and holds the signatories bound to consider the new situation created thereby with open minds. It considers that the first step towards responsible government cannot be taken in the sphere of the Central Government. The existing provincial areas need not be assumed to be suitable as a basis for responsible government, but suitable areas should be settled at the moment when the first instalment of responsible government is granted.

The first concrete proposal is that, during the period of transition, government of two types should co-exist, the one responsible to electorates for specific powers, the other to the Secretary of State for all other powers. To the former of these authorities, to be known as "Provincial State Governments," a share of the consolidated revenues of the province should be allotted, proportionate to the cost of the functions transferred to them. They should be given certain specific powers of taxation, such as would fall on the electorate. Further additions to the powers of these provincial states, and to their share of existing revenues, should be considered by Commissioners reporting direct to Parliament at intervals of, say, seven years, such intervals to be specified at the outset. In the intervening periods no demand for further executive powers or for a further share of existing revenues should be entertained.

SAFEGUARDS.

Various safeguards are proposed. Legislation passed by the new provincial authorities affecting commercial and industrial undertakings should be reserved to the sanction of the Secretary of State, a time limit being laid down within which representations from the interests affected could be received by him. The existing Provincial Governments, remaining responsible to the Government of India and the Secretary of State, should have power to do or repair public works upon which the value of invested capital depends, neglect of which is due to the default of the Provincial State Government, and to charge the cost thereof to the revenues assigned to the defaulting authority. The Government of India should have the right to recall powers which have been abused or neglected, and in extreme cases to suspend the Provincial State Government. Such action should always be subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State and Parliament, but in cases of emergency action might be taken in anticipation of such sanction. Adequate representation should be accorded to industrial and commercial interests, to Mohammedans, landowners, and minorities generally.

The final proposal is that while these principles are laid down by Act of Parliament, questions of detail, relating to franchises, constitutions, powers, finances, etc., should be remitted to not more than five commissioners named under the Act, the arrangements they make being given the force of law by Orders in Council. A statement has been published by Mrs. Leant and a number of her Congress associates condemning the scheme as calculated not only to postpone, but to impede, the attainment of self-government within a reasonable time. It is also adversely criticized on grounds of impracticability by most of the organs of European opinion in India.

UNION CASTLE COMMANDER'S
DEATH.

Captain J. W. Watson Black, one of the Union Castle commanders, who died in hospital at Southampton, recently, entered the Admiralty service when war broke out and commanding a transport in the Dardanelles, landing at Beach W. Towards the end of the campaign he was sent by a submarine in the Mediterranean, and the Gurkha officers on board his ship presented him with a jewelled sword as a memento. Subsequently he was the master of a hospital ship that was mined in the English Channel, and later he commanded the *Gloucester Castle*, which was torpedoed in the Channel with 600 sick on board. In the first case all on board were saved, and in the second, though sixteen of the crew perished, every one else was rescued.

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§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji. † Wireless telegraphy.

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SHINYO MARU	22,000	SAT., 27th Apr.
FURUSA MARU	18,000	FRI., 10th May
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	SAT., 8th June

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"KAJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 31st Mar., at 10 A.M.
"JOHIN MARU" ... MONDAY, 1st Apr., at 9 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 79 will be fixed.

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